AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-8. **(canceled)**

9. **(currently amended)** A flossing device, comprising:

a housing including a fork extension extending from said housing and having a pair of prongs with grooves for guiding said floss in a circuit which spans a space between said prongs.

a floss supply spool rotatably mounted to said housing;

a floss take-up spool rotatably mounted to said housing;

an actuating mechanism for rotating said take-up spool to advance floss within the floss circuit;

a first tensioning mechanism connected to the floss take-up spool to tension the floss during periods when the actuating mechanism is deactivated, said first tensioning mechanism including at least one ratchet pawl engaging a ratchet co-rotatably mounted with the take-up spool; and

a second tensioning mechanism connected to the supply spool to cooperate with the first tensioning mechanism to tension the floss during periods when the actuating mechanism is deactivated;

~~The flosser of claim 8,~~ wherein the actuating mechanism further includes a brake engageable with the second tensioning mechanism to positively lock the supply spool by engaging the tensioning mechanism during periods when the actuating mechanism is deactivated.

10. **(currently amended)** The ~~flosser~~ flossing device of claim [[8]] 9, wherein said first

tensioning mechanism includes a pair of said ratchet pawls engaging said ratchet.

11. **(currently amended)** A flossing device, comprising:

a housing including a fork extension extending from said housing and having a pair of prongs with grooves for guiding said floss in a circuit which spans a space between said prongs.

a floss supply spool rotatably mounted to said housing;

a floss take-up spool rotatably mounted to said housing;

an actuating mechanism for rotating said take-up spool to advance floss within the floss circuit;

a first tensioning mechanism connected to the floss take-up spool to tension the floss during periods when the actuating mechanism is deactivated, said first tensioning mechanism including at least one ratchet pawl engaging a ratchet co-rotatably mounted with the take-up spool; and

a second tensioning mechanism connected to the supply spool to cooperate with the first tensioning mechanism to tension the floss during periods when the actuating mechanism is deactivated;

~~The flosser of claim 8,~~ wherein said actuating mechanism includes

a ratchet arm pivotally mounted to the housing,

a pawl mounted to one end of said ratchet arm,

a cam follower connected to the pawl, and

a spring biasing the ratchet arm into a home position, said cam follower engaging a cam surface of a trigger in said actuating mechanism, whereby depressing of said trigger causes said pawl and said ratchet arm to pivot about the pivot axis of said ratchet arm, enabling the pawl to engage the ratchet and rotate the same and thereby the take-up spool.

12. **(new)** The flossing device of claim 10, wherein said ratchet pawls are not part of said actuating mechanism.

13. **(new)** The flossing device of claim 10, wherein

said actuating mechanism comprises a pawl engageable with said ratchet to drive said ratchet, and hence said take-up spool, in a direction that causes unwinding of said supply spool when said actuating mechanism is activated, and

said pawl of said actuating mechanism is different from said ratchet pawls of said first tensioning mechanism.

14. **(new)** The flossing device of claim 9, wherein said second tensioning mechanism comprises

circumferentially spaced teeth arranged on a lower portion of said supply spool; and

a tension arm in co-elevational alignment with said teeth, projecting in a radial direction of said supply spool, and constantly engageable between a pair of said teeth.

15. **(new)** The flossing device of claim 14, wherein said brake of the actuating mechanism is directly engageable with the tension arm of the second tensioning mechanism to positively lock the supply spool when the actuating mechanism is deactivated.

16. **(new)** A flossing device, comprising:

a housing including a fork extension extending from said housing and having a pair of prongs with grooves for guiding said floss in a circuit which spans a space between said prongs.

a floss supply spool rotatably mounted to said housing;

a floss take-up spool rotatably mounted to said housing;

an actuating mechanism for rotating said take-up spool to advance floss within the floss circuit;

a first tensioning mechanism connected to the floss take-up spool to tension the floss during periods when the actuating mechanism is deactivated; and

a second tensioning mechanism connected to the supply spool to cooperate with the first

tensioning mechanism to tension the floss during periods when the actuating mechanism is deactivated;

wherein

said actuating mechanism comprises a trigger having opposite first and second ends and being rotatably mounted to said housing via a post located between said opposite ends;

when said trigger is deactivated, said first end brakes rotation of said supply spool; and

when said trigger is activated, said first end releases said supply spool whereas said second end moves to drive said take-up spool to rotate in a direction that causes unwinding of said supply spool.

17. **(new)** The flossing device of claim 16, wherein said second tensioning mechanism comprises

circumferentially spaced teeth arranged on a lower portion of said supply spool; and

a tension arm in co-elevational alignment with said teeth, projecting in a radial direction of said supply spool, and constantly engageable between a pair of said teeth.

18. **(new)** The flossing device of claim 17, wherein said first end of the trigger of the actuating mechanism is directly engageable with the tension arm of the second tensioning mechanism to positively lock the supply spool when the actuating mechanism is deactivated.

19. **(new)** The flossing device of claim 17, wherein said first end of the trigger of the actuating mechanism is directly engageable with the teeth on the lower portion of said supply spool to positively lock the supply spool when the actuating mechanism is deactivated.

20. **(new)** The flossing device of claim 16, wherein said first tensioning mechanism includes a pair of said ratchet pawls engaging a ratchet co-rotatably mounted with the take-up spool, and wherein said ratchet pawls are not part of said actuating mechanism.

21. **(new)** The flossing device of claim 16, wherein

said first tensioning mechanism includes a pair of said ratchet pawls engaging a ratchet co-rotatably mounted with the take-up spool,

the second end of said actuating mechanism comprises a pawl engageable with said ratchet to drive said ratchet, and hence said take-up spool, in a direction that causes unwinding of said supply spool when said actuating mechanism is activated, and

said pawl of said actuating mechanism is different from said ratchet pawls of said first tensioning mechanism.

22. **(new)** The flossing device of claim 16, wherein said actuating mechanism further includes

a ratchet arm pivotally mounted to the housing,

a pawl mounted to one end of said ratchet arm,

a cam follower connected to the pawl, and

a spring biasing the ratchet arm into a home position, said cam follower slidably engaging a cam surface at the second end of said trigger, whereby activation of said trigger causes said pawl and said ratchet arm to pivot about the pivot axis of said ratchet arm, enabling the pawl to engage a ratchet co-rotatably mounted with the take-up spool and rotate the ratchet, and hence the take-up spool, in the direction that causes unwinding of said supply spool.

23. **(new)** The flossing device of claim 22, wherein said ratchet arm and said ratchet share the same pivot axis.

24. **(new)** The flossing device of claim 22, wherein said cam follower and said pawl are integrated in a single body.

25. **(new)** The flossing device of claim 22, wherein said ratchet arm, said cam follower and said pawl are integrated in a single body, said pawl being flexible.

26. **(new)** The flossing device of claim 22, wherein said cam follower and said pawl are parts of a cap mounted rotatably on a post at said one end of said ratchet arm.

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